

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLOTTE DIVISION  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:19-CV-177-KDB-DCK**

**GLOBAL HOOKAH DISTRIBUTORS, INC.,** )  
 )  
 **Plaintiff,** )  
 )  
 **v.** ) **ORDER**  
 )  
 **AVIOR, INC.,** )  
 )  
 **Defendant.** )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT** on “Avior Inc.’s Unopposed Motion To Seal” (Document No. 27) filed May 22, 2020. This motion has been referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), and immediate review is appropriate. Having carefully considered the motion and the record, and noting Plaintiff does not oppose the motion, the undersigned will grant the motion.

A party who seeks to seal any pleading must comply with the Local Rules of this Court. Local Civil Rule(“LCvR”) 6.1 provides in relevant part as follows:

**LCvR. 6.1 SEALED FILINGS AND PUBLIC ACCESS.**

(a) ***Scope of Rule.*** To further openness in civil case proceedings, there is a presumption under applicable common law and the First Amendment that materials filed in this Court will be filed unsealed. This Rule governs any party’s request to seal, or otherwise restrict public access to, any materials filed with the Court or used in connection with judicial decision- making. As used in this Rule, “materials” includes pleadings and documents of any nature and in any medium or format.

(b) ***Filing under Seal.*** No materials may be filed under seal except by Court order, pursuant to a statute, or in accordance with a previously entered Rule 26(e) protective order.

(c) ***Motion to Seal or Otherwise Restrict Public Access.*** A

party's request to file materials under seal must be made by formal motion, separate from the motion or other pleading sought to be sealed, pursuant to LCvR 7.1. Such motion must be filed electronically under the designation "Motion to Seal." The motion must set forth:

- (1) A non-confidential description of the material sought to be sealed;
- (2) A statement indicating why sealing is necessary and why there are no alternatives to filing under seal;
- (3) Unless permanent sealing is sought, a statement indicating how long the party seeks to have the material maintained under seal and how the matter is to be handled upon unsealing; and
- (4) Supporting statutes, case law, or other authority.

Local Rule 6.1.

Having considered the factors provided in Local Rule 6.1(c), the Court will grant the motion to seal. The following documents may be filed under seal:

Global Hookah's 2018 Tax Return, which contains sensitive company and personal financial information throughout the document, including taxpayer identification, earnings amounts, and related information, the quantity of which makes redaction unfeasible;

An unredacted version of the transcript of the Deposition of Brennan Appel, which contains much of the same company and personal financial information at pages 288–298 (which portions have been redacted in the publicly-filed version); and

A detailed report listing all of Global Hookah's license, address, and other sensitive and personal information related to its tax accounts in various jurisdictions, the quantity of which makes redaction unfeasible.

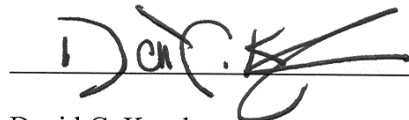
(Document No. 27, p. 2).

Noting that the time for public response has not run to this motion, the Court will consider any objection to this Order from non-parties as an objection to the motion, requiring no additional

burden for any non-party under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. See Local Rule 6.1(e).

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that “Avior Inc.’s Unopposed Motion To Seal” (Document No. 27) is **GRANTED**. The exhibits identified above shall remain under seal until otherwise ordered by the Court.

Signed: May 26, 2020

  
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David C. Keesler  
United States Magistrate Judge

